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Letter dated 23 January 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 22 January 2003 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning United States practices that are intended to destabilize regional peace and security in the Arab Gulf region and to threaten civilian commerce, ports and ships transporting oil.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Said Shihab **Ahmad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 23 January 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As an example of the aggressive practices of the United States of America that are intended to destabilize regional peace and security in the Arabian Gulf region and to threaten civilian trade, ports and ships transporting oil, on 2 November 2002 a United States warship navigating in the Arabian Gulf against the wishes of the people of the region approached the Iraqi oil exporting port of Mina al-Bakr and launched two rubber boats which approached the port and from which photographs were taken of the installations. Another warship approached the Iraqi oil exporting port of Mina Khawr al-Amaya and launched a rubber boat from which a vessel bearing the ship's emblem was affixed to the arm of the port.

Provocations by units of the United States Navy against ports exporting Iraqi oil and against ships carrying Iraqi civilian cargoes in the Gulf are acts of aggression that endanger the movement of civilian shipping, including the oil trade, and imperil the security of Iraqi oil exports. The aggressive conduct by the United States fleet navigating in the Gulf infringes the laws on the sanctity of trade and maritime navigation and will impair regional security and the security of the oil supply for which the United States bears full legal responsibility.

We appeal to you to intervene to prevent such acts of aggression and terrorism by the United States in the Arabian Gulf, especially acts that endanger oil supplies, and to make strenuous efforts to put pressure on the United States of America to induce it to cease its hostilities and to withdraw its aggressive fleet without delay from the Arabian Gulf.

(Signed) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs